

FAMILY NAME CHANGE INFORMATION

To ask the court for a legal name change for an entire family, please read and follow these directions.

The clerk has given you the documents necessary for this court appearance. You should have one document entitled *Petition for Change of Name of Family*, and one entitled *Order Granting Change of Family Name*. **(The order will be given to you to complete at the time of filing)**

Family name changes are designed for families consisting of a parent and their natural or legal children. It is not designed for families with stepparents or stepchildren, since the consent of the natural parents is needed. (In these situations, you will need a Petition for Change of Name of Minor Child.) If you are a single parent, you will need to have the consent of the non-petitioning natural parent for change of name of a minor child.

All documents must be filled out completely and legibly. Please note that **every person** who is applying for the name change must fall under the criteria outlined below.

1. Begin filling out the Petition for Change of Family Name by printing the full legal names of the entire family on the lines at the top. The clerk will write the case number on the top right corner for you.
2. Answer questions 1 through 6 by checking the appropriate box. It is required that you be a legal resident of Clark County. This means that the place you consider “home” is in this county.
3. **If you are a registered sex offender**, it is required by law that you submit a copy of this application to the Sheriff or Washington State Patrol at least 5 days prior to the hearing, and submit a copy of the signed order within 5 days after the hearing. Briefly print the reasons you desire this change.
4. Print the present full legal name, social security number, and the name desired for each family member. Tell the clerk if you need more than five spaces.
5. Each person who is able should sign their own name.
6. On the Order Granting Change of Family Name, complete the top portion as you did on the Petition.
7. Then clearly print the full present legal name, followed by the full new name desired for each family member.
8. Do not date, or mark where the judge will sign.
9. Finally, the head of the family should sign as petitioner.
10. File the Petition and Order with the District Court clerk and pay the \$96.00 filing fee in **cash**.
11. At the time of the hearing, you will receive at no additional cost, one certified copy of the order for your records. If additional copies will be needed, notify the clerk when you file your papers, pay the required fee, present a self-addressed stamped envelope, and you will receive them by mail. Certified copies are \$5 each. After the hearing, should you need a copy of the order, you will need to make your request at the Clark County Auditor’s office located on the second floor of the Public Service Center building. They will provide you with a certified copy for a fee.

Court staff can explain court procedures, practices, and terminology. They can give you information about the status of your case and help you with procedures such as filing a case or scheduling a hearing before a judge. They are not qualified or permitted by law to give legal advice. This means that when there are alternative ways to proceed, they cannot advise you on which course of action to take.

IN RE the Name Change of _____)
_____)
_____)
_____)
_____)
_____)
_____)
_____)
_____)
_____)
Petitioners. _____)

PETITION FOR CHANGE OF FAMILY NAME

1. Petitioners are residents of Clark County in Washington State. ☐ Yes ☐ No
2. Petitioners are United States citizens. ☐ Yes ☐ No
3. Any child who is subject of this petition who is age 14 or older has joined in this petition. ☐ Yes ☐ No
4. Are any of the petitioners registered sex offenders? ☐ Yes ☐ No
5. The petition is not made for any illegal or fraudulent purpose, and the change of name will not be detrimental to the interests of any person. ☐ Yes ☐ No
6. The natural parents (**both** mother and father):

☐ consent to minor's name change. Copy of the parental consent is attached.

☐ **do not** consent to minor's name change.

7. The petitioners request the change of name for the following reasons: